
Herald of Good TIDINGS



“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”
Isaiah 40:9

FROM THE PASTOR

“April Showers Bring May Flowers Part 2”

As a child, I remember looking out the screen door at the rain falling. It meant another day that I had to play inside. In the days before video games, playing inside was the worst. My mom did not want me making loud engine or explosion sounds. I was not to run around and crash into things. Playing indoors was supposed to be quiet play. Quiet and fun play were not possible when I was little. My play involved battles, race cars, or construction equipment, all of which were very loud.

When it rained, my mom liked it quiet. I think the rain helped her sleep. For some reason the sounds of the Indy 500 or WWII did not help her sleep. I understand her now, but at the time it was a horrible burden. My mom saw that I wanted to be outside even in the rain. What did I care about muddy clothes or getting the sniffles?

My mom would try to lift my spirits with a favorite saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” That saying was supposed to teach me that the bad thing today would bring benefits later. As a young boy, May flowers weren’t really a benefit.

I remember often going flower picking in May with my mom. We would walk along the river bank and pick tiny little bluish-purple flowers. We would take flowers to my Grammy Lizotte and keep some in a vase at our house.

Picking flowers was a great way to fight boredom. I would pick buttercups, devil’s paintbrushes, may-flowers and, of course, the ever-popular dandelions. I would then give them to the women in my life — babysitters, grandmas and my mom.

It made them happy, and it was an easy thing for me to do as these flowers grew like weeds wherever I went. All that beauty came from a few days of rain. Not a bad trade off.

So when I hear the rain fall on the roof, from time to time, I think of that young boy who wanted so bad to play in the mud and hated naps... and I lay down and take a nap. I have become more like my mom than I like to admit.

God Bless,

Pastor Brian

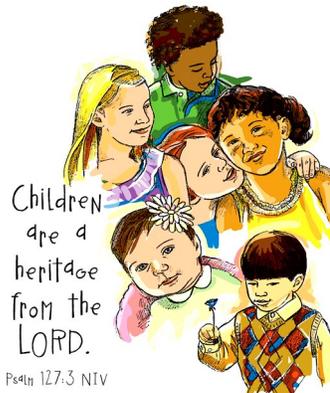


MAY SERMON TITLES

- May 1 Communion Sunday - “Worthy Is the Lamb”
- May 8 Mother’s Day - “Therefore, I Have Lent Him to the Lord”
- May 15 Choir Appreciation & Baptism Sunday - “Sing to the Lord a New Song”
- May 22 “Those Who Love Me Will Keep My Word”
- May 29 Memorial Sunday - “The Second Coming”

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 5th**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on

Children's Sunday.



Following our service that day we will be having our annual picnic. We will be looking for donations of desserts and salads to complement the burgers and dogs supplied by the Board of Ed. Please look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall as the date approaches.

THANK YOU, NAN!

The feedback following the ladies get-together on Saturday, April 23rd, was all positive. Organized and run by Nan Johnson, we want to take this opportunity to thank Nan for taking this on and making it special for the ladies who attended. Your attention to detail, Nan, was greatly appreciated and the ladies enjoyed reconnecting with one another.

Coffee Hour Hosts

- 5/1 Deb Pranaitis & Pastor Brian
- 5/8 Marion Woodcock & Sheila Skog
- 5/15 Outreach Committee
- 5/22 Board of Deacons
- 5/29 **Volunteers Needed - please see the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.**

Come swing by for a WW Workshop with me!

At WW (formerly Weight Watchers), we can't wait to help you crush your weight loss and wellness goals! Join us for a workshop here at the First Congregational Church - see days and times below. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. Coach Karie
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Coach Andrea
(Doors open 30 minutes before the workshop.)

Not a member? Check out the current membership promotions on www.ww.com!



weightwatchers
reimagined

Carole & Bob Murray will be celebrating their special day on May 4th.
Happy Anniversary, Bob & Carole!

Paul and Diane Moore will be celebrating their anniversary on May 10th.
Congratulations, Paul and Diane!



Calling All Soon To Be Graduates . . .

If you are aware of any students with ties to First Congregational who will be graduating this spring, please email Denise at: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org or call the Church office, (508) 832-2845. Please include where they're graduating from and when, details of their future plans, and list family members (parents/grandparents) who are known within the church. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the June *Tidings* and a future bulletin.



CWS (Church World Service) Emergency Response Fund: Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Russia's military aggression in Ukraine has triggered a massive humanitarian upheaval. Ukrainians have crossed into other countries in search of safety. "At this rate, the situation looks set to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century," the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said. Ukraine has already been a leading country of origin for refugees arriving in the United States due to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, with more than 10,000 Ukrainian refugees resettling in American communities the last five years.

CWS will respond to meet the needs emerging from this crisis. Our staff and partners in Europe are carefully monitoring the unfolding emergency. We are in deep conversation with our teams who work with migrants and refugees in Balkan nations, our local partners in the region, and international coalitions to assess emerging needs and create response plans accordingly.

In the United States, CWS is one of nine resettlement agencies that implements the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. We stand ready to welcome Ukrainian refugees who will arrive in American communities in the coming months and years. Our teams have proudly welcomed Ukrainians for more than a decade as part of our work addressing the global refugee crisis. We continue to fight for a robust system through which people who have been displaced from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Tigray, Syria and many more countries of origin can access pathways to rebuild their lives in peace.

We are establishing the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund to offer humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence and bolster partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable.

You may donate to CWS by making a **check out to the church and noting Ukrainian Relief in the memo**. Donations may be placed in the Sunday offering or mailed to the church: 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

AUBURN WOMAN'S CLUB EVENT

Programs and activities have begun once again. These past two years have presented many challenges for all of us. The Auburn Woman's Club, as a Community Service Project, will welcome Dr. Roseanne LaBarre **on May 18, 2022**. She will present:

“WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE”

This is a combined program of the benefits of walking and exercise as well as the fauna and flora, and animals she has photographed along the way. Dr. LaBarre is a professional photographer. As a Worcester based physician, she begins each day walking with her husband, long before her office hours begin. Her photography is remarkable. The program begins **at 6 p.m.** at the Pakachoag Church, located at 203 Pakachoag Street, next to the Pappas Sports Complex.

Ladies, your husbands, significant others, and friends are sure to enjoy this presentation.

COST: \$7.00

Tickets are available by contacting: Ann Marie Wisialko 508-832-3083 or
Sheila Skog 978-387-7705

NOTE: Tickets will NOT be available at the door.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christ is Risen! He has risen indeed!

What a glorious Lenten season here at FCC Auburn. We closed the season beginning with Palm Sunday, which was very successful. We had many children here for our breakfast and our Easter egg hunt. There was joy and laughter throughout the church and it's campus. The sun was bright, and the air was crisp. Praise God for a wonderful day!

Maundy Thursday was a sad night here in the sanctuary. It was my first time sitting in front of the altar alongside Pastor Brian and 7 other church friends. We read about the last night of the Passion of Christ. It was very moving and something I will never forget.

I was pleased to see a couple of our youngsters in the pews. As much as we want to shield our children from the drama and sadness, sometimes it's necessary for them to experience it. This was a great example of that. We learn in Sunday School that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. But the suffering that Jesus endured leading up to his crucifixion is not discussed as often or in much detail. Perhaps I should revisit how that is taught, for our older children, next year.

Easter was lovely! The confirmands did a great job leading the sunrise service at 6 A.M., accompanied by Michael Schillinger on guitar and Pastor Brian's sermon. To be honest, I was surprised at the turn out. We had about 40 people or so! It was chilly but warm to our soul. The 10AM service was magical! The sanctuary was bountiful with seasonal flowers, and our church family was dressed in their Sunday best, including our youth! The morning was filled with Hallelujahs and exaltation!

What a wonderful month May is! The flowers are already starting to bloom. My weeping cherry tree is in full bloom as I write. Time to turn over the soil and plant early spring vegetables. This month signifies new life. A fresh new beginning. Jesus has overcome death so that we can ascend to Heaven and be forever citizens. May, the month following Easter this year, is a time to embrace the threshold of the next year and remember lessons learned from the past.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers, parents, parishioners and, of course, our amazing Board of Christian Ed. for supporting me and our Sunday School Program!

Peace and Love,

Shannon Hartmann
Director of Religious Education



Walking Group

Cindy Dube is looking to form a walking group and you're invited! If interested, join her at 10 a.m. on May 14 at the Horgan/Rocket Land track located by the playground.



Here We Grow Preschool

It doesn't seem possible that it is already May; it feels like the time is just flying by. Now if only Mother Nature would cooperate so we can spend more time outside, we would be grateful.

As we enter the last full month of our school year, I wanted to share some of our favorite activities that get the kids up and moving, especially on these cool, rainy spring days. Building an obstacle course, either indoors or outside, is a lot of fun and simple to do using everyday items. Dancing, just put on any music and get grooving, or play the freeze dance by randomly stopping the music and striking a pose. To practice shape/letter/number recognition, write numbers/letters or draw shapes on the driveway and hop from one to another and call out the name of what you land on.

Some other less active activities that we love, Play-doh! It is so great for increasing finger/hand strength as well as their imagination. Add some child-safe scissors to the Play-doh and practice cutting. Getting a lot of junk mail? Let your littles help rip it up. Show them how to use their pointer and thumb to grab the top of the paper and tear, such a huge lesson to learn, especially when it comes to opening juice box straws. I love using washable markers on my windows, or sliding glass door, we play tic-tac-toe, practice letter/number formation and it's so easy to clean. And always Read, Read, Read, there is nothing better.

We still have openings for the 2022-23 school year if you know of anyone looking for a great preschool experience, please send them our way.

Need a break from cooking dinner? We will be hosting a Papa Gino's fundraiser again on May 25, 4-9pm! Mention Here We Grow when ordering and we receive 20% of each order.

We want to wish all the moms and grandmoms, a very Happy Mother's Day!

As always thank you for your continued support of Here We Grow, stay safe and healthy.

Until next month,
Cristi Corey, Director
Here We Grow Preschool

CWS Blankets Program

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets Program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. If you would like to make a donation, checks should be payable to the church with "CWS Blankets" in the memo section and may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed directly to the church at 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

Cards are available if you would like to make a donation in honor of a family member.



Please keep the Carlson Family in your prayers due to the passing of Alice Carlson on April 26, 2022. Funeral arrangements will be held privately. An obituary was not available at the time of printing.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;" John 11:25 (NIV®)

FROM YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 70 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world. WCK's Resilience Programs strengthen food and nutrition security by training chefs and school cooks; advancing clean cooking practices; and awarding grants to farms, fisheries, and small food businesses while also providing educational and networking opportunities. Learn more at wck.org.

"You see, food relief is not just a meal that keeps hunger away. It's a plate of hope. It tells you in your darkest hour that someone, somewhere, cares about you."

This wonderful program was brought to our attention by Pat Bukoski and we could not be more excited to support this wonderful mission. World Central Kitchen is already working in Ukraine along with many other locations.

To get the maximum bang for our buck our Outreach Committee will match all donations, up to \$500, to support **WCK**. Your donations can be given to any Outreach Committee member or placed in the offering plate clearly marked **World Central Kitchen**.

We highly encourage you to check out the World Central Kitchen website to learn more about their wonderful work.

In His service,

Outreach Committee:

Jennifer Bohn, Cindy Dube, Judy Murphy, Deb Pranaitis, Sheila Skog, and Judi Taft



May is Arthritis Awareness Month, Healthy Vision Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, and National Osteoporosis Month. It is also National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, National Stroke Awareness Month, and Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

May 2-8 is National Women's Health Week

May 31 is World No Tobacco Day

Signs of a Stroke: F = Face, one side is drooping
 A = Arm weakness
 S = Speech difficulty
 T = Time

If a person has these symptoms, call for help immediately! There's medication that may help if given soon after these symptoms appear.

God Bless!

Deb Pranaitis, Parish Nurse
 cell # 508-612-4521



RAISE SOME DOUGH!

Here We Grow Preschool

will earn **20%** of all qualifying sales from orders placed on **May 25th**.

When: **Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

Time: **4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

Where: **459 Southbridge Street, Auburn**

Phone: **508-832-6583**

- When you place your order, tell us you support this fundraiser! Hand us this flyer or show it on a mobile device for your organization to get credit for your order.
- Online orders: Enter code **19** at the payment screen and then click apply.
- **Fundraiser orders are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals. Fundraisers are not valid on third party orders.**
- Flyers cannot be handed out in or around the Papa Gino's restaurant on the day of your event.
- Flyers made by the organization will not be accepted for the fundraiser event.

RESTAURANT ONLY - Ring in this sale using the POS button 19: Fundraiser.

Valid for all Dine-In, Carry Out, Online & Delivery orders!

View menu and place online orders at: www.papaginos.com

COMMUNITY YARD SALE & PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 11th, 8 A.M. till 1 P.M.



Mark your calendars for our **Community Yard Sale on June 11th** and begin setting aside items. As we've done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we'll do all the advertising, and remember, our prime location can't be beat! Sort those items now and prepare to turn that "trash" into "treasure." Spaces are \$20 for church members, \$25 for non-members. Use of a table is \$5 per table. Please contact Denise in the church office at 508-832-2845 to secure your spot.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS! You can carry out tables and chairs on Friday night (the 10th), help serve and clean refreshment tables, help clean-up and return tables inside at the end of the day on Saturday, make a monetary donation to help defray costs, **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT** by donating perennials, renting a yard sale space, shopping at the yard sale, and joining us for hamburgers and hot dogs. Remember to invite lots of friends and family to join you in all the fun!

Returning again this year, we will be having a church table at the yard sale, so when doing you're spring cleaning, keep the church in mind. Your items may be dropped off in early June (date to be determined). **Please ensure your items are clean and in working order.** Please, **NO** clothes, **NO** VCR tapes, and **NO** TVs/audio/video/computer equipment.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,
 United Church of Christ
 128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508) 832-2845
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 Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
 or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

*God's church in Auburn Center
 doing Christ's work in the world.*

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



BULK RATE
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 Auburn, Mass

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

OR CURRENT RESIDENT